REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-31 are pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) on December 10, 2003. However, the Office Action did not include an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 of that IDS. A fresh copy of the Form PTO-1449 is attached for the Examiner's convenience. Applicant respectfully requests that the Form PTO-1449 be fully initialed as an indication that all of the cited references have been considered.

Objections to the Specification:

A new title that is descriptive of the invention has been provided. Page 5, lines 22-23 of the specification have been amended to delete an indication of "shading." A new abstract including only one paragraph and excluding legal phraseology is attached. Applicant thus respectfully requests that the objections to the specification in sections 1-3 of the Office Action be withdrawn.

Claim Objections:

Claims 1 and 15 were objected to because of various informalities. In claim 1, the recitation of "said mobile host" in line 14 has been deleted. The punctuation error in line 3 of claim 15 has been corrected. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. With respect to claims 2 and 3, the phrase "does not apply" has been changed to --is inapplicable to--. With respect to claim 1, the Office Action indicates that the phrase "may be" in claim 1 is indefinite. Applicant respectfully disagrees. There is no specific reasoning provided in the Office Action as to why this phrase is deemed to be indefinite. Claim 1 clearly recites a plurality of access nodes to which a routing path may be directed. Claim 1 later requires "a first access node" and a "second access node." Applicant thus respectfully submits that the above recitation in claim 1 is not indefinite. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. §112 be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103:

Claims 1-5, 7, 12, 20-21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Acampora et al (U.S. '583, hereinafter "Acampora"). Claims 8-9, 14, 16, 19, 22 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Acampora. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, each element must be found, either expressly or under principles of inherency, in the reference. Each element of

independent claim 1 is not found in Acampora. For example, Acampora fails to teach or suggest "in response to said mobile node receiving service from a second access node, generating second routing protocol data for said network address, by a routing defining process involving transmitting directed routing update messages to a limited number of said packet switching nodes," as required by claim 1 and its dependents.

Acampora discloses a connection tree that is set up within a mobile communications network (see Fig. 6). Figures 6A and 6B of Acampora show the look up tables at ATM switch/rerouters 112 and 114 respectively. Each of these ATM switch/rerouter look up tables has the capacity to have its rows either enabled or disabled. This enabling and disabling is indicated by the column marked "enabled" on the left-hand side of the look up tables. When a mobile user first communicates to the connection tree, control signals are sent out to each of the ATM switch/rerouters 112, 113 and 114. The control signals enable the first and third rows of the look up tables for ATM switch/rerouters 112 and 114. Enabling these rows sets up connection path 120 through the connection tree. When the mobile user establishes a connection with base station 111, control messages are sent to the reroute port of ATM switch/rerouters 112, 113 and 114 by the base station 111. The control message essentially tells the switch to enable connection 121 and disable connection 120. To accomplish this switching, the

look up table's first and third rows are disabled and its second and fourth rows are enabled.

In the present invention, first routing protocol data for a network address used by a mobile node is initially generated. This first routing protocol data specifies a characteristic of a first route passing through a first access node that serves the mobile node. Subsequently, in response to the mobile node receiving service from a second access node, second routing protocol data for the network address is generated by a routing defining process involving transmitting directed routing update messages to only a limited number of the packet switching nodes in the network. This second routing protocol data specifies a characteristic of a second route passing through the second access node. Generating second routing protocol data in response to mobility of the mobile node is entirely different from sending a control message to tell a switch to enable one connection and disable another connection as described in Acampora. In Acampora, all the content of the look up tables (i.e., the data used to set up connection paths 120 and 121) is generated at the start of the process when the connection tree is first set up, none of it is generated in response to mobility of a mobile user.

By only generating the second routing protocol data in response to the mobile node receiving service from a second access node, it is not necessary to store lots of states in the packet switching nodes in advance. In Acampora,

however, all of the content of the look up tables shown in Figs. 6A and 6B is stored in advance.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 over Acampora be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Office Action indicates that claims 6, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed above, Applicant submits that all claims are in full conformance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 6, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 18 have been maintained herein. Claims 6, 10, 11, 13, 17 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 25-30, respectively. Claim 15 has been rewritten as new claim 31 which depends from new claim 28.
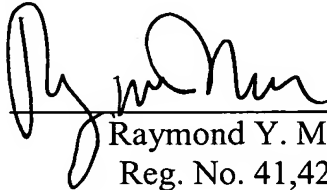
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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